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a control means for coupling and decoupling said first drive means; wherein decoupling of said first drive means allows for release of said at least one elongate member to thereby enable passage through said opening and coupling of said first drive means allows for drawing in said at least one elongate member to thereby restrict passage through said opening;

a first line connecting said first end of said at least one elongate member to said first drive means such that said first drive means operates to draw in said first line thereby drawing in said at least one elongate member;

and wherein said first drive means includes:

a winch drum adapted to reel in and reel out said first line, said winch drum being adapted to freely rotate on a drive shaft;

a drive collar rotatable with, and slidable along, said drive shaft; and

an engaging means adapted to enable said drive collar to engage and disengage said winch drum; wherein disengaging said winch drum allows for release of said first line, and engaging said winch drum allows for drawing in said first line;

and wherein during opening of the gate said first drive means is decoupled, thereby allowing the weight of said at least one elongate member to extract said first line from said first drive means.

Please also add new independent claims 292 and 293, which read on the previously elected species of the invention, identified as Group I:

292. (New) A gate for controlling passage through an opening including:

a first support means located on one side of the opening;

a second support means located on the other side of the opening;

at least one elongate member, having a first and a second end, extendable across the opening between said first and second support means, wherein said first and/or second end is joined to a termination means adapted to engage a locking means located in said first or second support means;

a control means for releasing said at least one elongate member to thereby enable passage through said opening, and drawing said elongate member towards a first aperture in said first or second support means; wherein said elongate member remains substantially external to said first or second support means and little to none of said elongate member enters said first or second support means when said gate is in a locked or closed position to thereby restrict passage through said opening;

a locking means to prevent unwanted release of said at least one elongate member; said locking means including:

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 a latch means adapted to engage said termination means attached to said at least one elongate member;

a latch release means activated by said first drive means; and

wherein said release means further includes a return spring adapted to return said release means to a locked position.

293. (New) A gate for controlling passage through an opening including:

a first support means located on one side of the opening;

a second support means located on ^{the} other side of the opening;

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 at least one elongate member, having a first and a second end, extendable across the opening between said first and second support means, wherein said first ^(and/or) second end is joined to a termination means adapted to engage a locking means located in said first or second support means;

a first drive means to draw in said elongate member to thereby restrict passage through said opening; and

a control means for coupling and decoupling said first drive means; wherein decoupling of said first drive means allows for release of said at least one elongate member to thereby enable passage through said opening and coupling of said first drive means allows for drawing in said at least one elongate member towards a first aperture in said first or second support means to thereby restrict passage through said opening; wherein said at least one elongate member remains substantially external to said first or second support means and little to none of said elongate member enters said first or second support means when said gate is in a locked or closed position to thereby restrict passage through said opening;

a first line connecting said first end of said at least one elongate member to said first drive means such that said first drive means operates to draw in said first line thereby drawing in said at least one elongate member;

a locking means to prevent unwanted release of said at least one elongate member; said locking means including:

a latch means adapted to engage said termination means attached to said at least one elongate member;

15 a latch release means activated by said first ^(derive) means;

wherein said release lever further includes a return spring adapted to return said release lever to a locked position.

and wherein said first drive means includes: